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RE

Appl. No. 10/027,343  
Amendment dated September 9, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of August 4, 2003

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

Applicants: Looper, et al. Atty. Docket No.: VM6117/ALL8057  
Serial No.: 10/027,343 Examiner: Kenneth G. Schopfer  
Filing Date: December 19, 2001 Group Art Unit: 3739  
Entitled: RECONFIGURABLE SURGICAL APPARATUS

## CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Date of Deposit: 9/16/2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via Facsimile to the attention of Kenneth G. Schopfer at Facsimile Number: 703-872-9303; c/o Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop AF, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Christine Cameron  
Christine Cameron

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Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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## AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Commissioner:

This communication is in response to a final Office Action mailed on August 4, 2003. As this communication is being submitted within the shortened statutory period for reply of three months, it is believed to be timely and no fee is required. Additionally, this communication is being submitted within two months of the date of mailing and therefore shall be afforded a prompt advisory action. Please enter the following amendments to the claims without prejudice and consider the following remarks, which support allowance of those claims.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

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Date September 16, 2003

To Examiner Kenneth G. Schopfer  
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From Donald O. Nickey, Assistant General Counsel  
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Subject U.S. Patent Application Serial No.:10/027,343; Entitled: RECONFIGURABLE SURGICAL APPARATUS; inventors: Looper et al.

Pages 23 Pages (including this page)

Notes: Attached to this cover sheet (1 page) are the following documents:

- 1) Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 (1 page)
- 2) Summary of Claim Amendments and Comments (1 page)
- 3) Amendment/Listing of Claims (11 pages)
- 4) Remarks/Rejection of Claims (8 Pages)
- 5) Conclusion (1 page)

Attorney Docket Number: VM6117/ALL8057

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